ex-gratia out of the funds available with the State in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF).

(d) No foreign tourists have so far been reported to be victims of the calamity.

Insertion of the word 'Kashmir' in National Anthem

2395. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed and admitted in the Supreme Court of India for deleting the name of 'Sindh' from our National Anthem and inserting 'Kashmir' in its place; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir. A Civil Writ Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court for deletion of the word 'Sindh' from the National Anthem or its substitution by any other proper and approved word like 'Kashmir'.

(b) The Government is opposed to any deletion, addition, etc. in the National Anthem and is, therefore, contesting the Writ Petition.

Universities to study natural calamities

2396. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several universities in the country have requested for financial assistance for establishing a national centre for the study of natural hazards and calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, university-wise; and

(c) the action taken in this regard by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Requests had been received from Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Madhepura, Bihar and Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik, Maharashtra for opening of Institutes of Disaster Management in these Universities.

(c) Under an existing scheme being operated by this Ministry, financial assistance to the extent of Rupees ten lakh per year (now increased to a maximum of Rupees fifteen lakh per year) is being provided to Administrative Training Institutes or other training institutes designated by the State Governments for operation of a Faculty of Disaster Management. At present, 28 training institutes and one university, namely, Tezpur University, Assam, designated by the State Governments in 28 States, are being provided financial assistance under the scheme.

The State Government of Bihar was requested that the Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University may also be taken into consideration while designating an institute in Bihar for creation of a faculty of disaster management. The State Government, however, decided to designate Administrative Training Institute, Bihar for receipt of financial assistance from the Government of India for establishment of a Centre for Disaster Mitigation and Natural Calamities.

In case of Maharashtra, an institute had already been designated by the State Government for receiving assistance from the Government of India for operation of a faculty of disaster management. The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, which required an assistance of Rupees fifteen crore for establishment of an Institute of Disaster Management, was informed that in view of the limited availability of funds under the scheme, it would not be possible for this Ministry to provide the financial support required by the University for setting up the proposed institute.

Indian citizenship to individuals from Pakistan

2397. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Competent Authority has initiated steps to confer Indian Citizenship to individuals from Pakistan, settled in India many decades ago, so as to avail Indian passport;

(b) if so, the details including steps taken so as to avail Indian citizenship and passport facilities to above individuals and number of individuals who are eligible to apply for Indian passport, State-wise as on today;